AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

powering up a client device and initializing a initialization process;

determining a clear-text key during the initialization process;

providing the clear-text key to a first network adapter, wherein the first network adapter is to encrypt the clear-text key and store the encrypted key;

receiving at a client device ~~a~~ the encrypted key from ~~a~~ the first network adaptor, the key being associated with a remote management device, wherein the client device comprises the first network adapter and a second network adapter, and wherein the client device is to communicate with the remote management device via the first network adapter;

storing an indication at the client device that the key is currently stored at the first network adapter and not at the second network adapter;

~~and~~

storing the key at ~~a~~ the second network adapter; and

storing an indication at the client device that the key is currently stored at the second network adapter and not the first network adapter.

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2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the key is stored in a non-volatile storage unit at the second network adapter.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein an encrypted version of the key is received from the first network adaptor and stored at the second network adapter.

4. - 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to said receiving:

determining that the second network adapter is to communicate with the remote management device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the determination of the second network adapter is based on a determination that the first network adapter is no longer able to communicate with the remote management device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the received key is stored in a volatile memory unit at the client device, and said storing further comprises:

retrieving the key from the volatile memory unit; and

storing the key at a second network adapter.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to said receiving:

selecting the first network adapter from a group of available network adapters, wherein the client device comprises the group of available network adapters.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein an available network adapter on a motherboard is selected before a network adapter that is not on the motherboard.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the key is to be used to authenticate an alert standard format message from the remote management device.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a machine result in the following:

powering up a client device and initializing a initialization process;

determining a clear-text key during the initialization process;

providing the clear-text key to a first network adapter, wherein the first network adapter is to encrypt the clear-text key and store the encrypted key;

receiving at a client device the encrypted key from the first network adaptor, the key being associated with a remote management device, wherein the client device comprises the first network adapter and a second network adapter, and wherein the client device is to communicate with the remote management device via the first network adapter;

storing an indication at the client device that the key is currently stored at the first network adapter and not at the second network adapter;

losing a connection between the first network adapter and the remote management device;

storing the key at the second network adapter; and

storing an indication at the client device that the key is currently stored at the second network adapter and not the first network adapter.~~receiving at a client device a key from a first network adaptor, the key being associated with a remote management device, and~~

~~storing the key at a second network adapter.~~

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein an encrypted version of the key is received from the first network adaptor and stored at the second network adapter.

14. – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein execution of the instructions further results in, prior to said receiving:

determining that the second network adapter is to communicate with the remote management device.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the determination of the second network adapter is based on a determination that the first network adapter is no longer able to communicate with the remote management device.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the received key is stored in a volatile memory unit at the client device, and said storing further comprises:

retrieving the key from the volatile memory unit, and

storing the key at a second network adapter.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein execution of the instructions further results in, prior to said receiving:

selecting the first network adapter from a group of available network adapters, wherein the client device comprises the group of available network adapters

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein an available network adapter on a motherboard is selected before a network adapter that is not on the motherboard.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the key is to be used to authenticate an alert standard format message from the remote management device.

22. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

losing a connection between the first network adapter and the remote management device prior to storing the key at the second network adapter.